

Data Quality

The Environmental Chemistry Laboratory helps ensure adequate quality of data used for decision-making with a variety of activities:

Laboratory Certification/Accreditation – ECL is the reference laboratory for the Hazardous Waste Fields of Testing in the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, which is located in the Department of Health Services. ECL also participates in development of standards for the [National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference \(NELAC\)](#)

Quality Control (QC) – ECL prepares guidance, delivers training, and provides consultation to DTSC programs on sampling and laboratory QC; this is discussed in the [ECL User's Manual](#).

Review and Audit of Analytical Data – ECL provides data interpretation for environmental decision-making. This includes desk-top review, validation of hard copy, or validation of electronic records.

Data Quality Assessment – Assessment includes graphical examination of data, hypothesis testing, and decision-making based, preferably, on Data Quality Objectives for a particular project.

Ref: EPA QA/G-9, "Guidance for Data Quality Assessment", <http://www.epa.gov/swrust1/cat/epaqag9.pdf> Includes a variety of statistical tests for environmental data.